

WHILE Wycombe Wanderers were systematically destroying bottom of the table Bromley on Saturday, Enfield's vice-like grip of the Rothmans Isthmian League leadership eased slightly. The Division One leaders were expected to capture three easy points at Woking but instead ended up on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline. As an added bonus, third placed Dagenham were held to a 2-2 draw at Hayes.

On Tuesday night, after Wycombe had drawn 2-2 at Enfield, it seemed the championship was almost decided. But now the race is wide open again. Enfield's lead has been cut to eight points and they have played a game more than the Blues. If Wanderers can beat them at Lookes Park and win their game in hand, the distance between the two leaders would be just two points. Dagenham, meanwhile, are four points behind Wycombe with a game in hand.

Enfield's run-in to the end of the season is far from easy and Wanderers will be wanting to

Bromley 0, Wycombe Wanderers 7 Report by STUART EARP

put on every bit of pressure they can by winning their remaining games. Defeat, or even a draw, could cost one of three teams the title at this intriguing stage of the term.

Wycombe's intention of retaining the championship was loud and clear at Hayes Lane on Saturday. After the first 15 minutes there was only one team in the match as Wanderers thumped in seven goals and did their goal average the world of good.

This was their largest league win of the season by far with Keith Searle (3), Steve Perrin, Howard Kennedy, Dave Alexander and Tony Horseman supplying the goals. Poor Bromley, one of the oldest clubs in the Isthmian League, were simply outclassed. Only a couple of their players looked up to the general standard of the league and despite competing bravely, they were utterly torn apart by the Blues' attacking skills. Oddly enough, Wanderers were never really at their best on Saturday which is probably just as well for Bromley.

On a bumpy surface, Wycombe struggled for some

time to string passes together but they made up for this defect with excellent finishing.

When a 7-0 scoreline is recorded, one automatically points to the goalkeeper for one of the reasons. In fact Dave Paske was almost blameless for the goals. Instead it was the defence in front of him that was really responsible. You couldn't help feeling a little sorry for the 'keeper, he was only signed on last week and let in six goals at Ilford on Tuesday. Saturday's game makes it 13 in two games.

Injuries forced Bromley to make several changes in their side and the effect was shattering. Midfield man Steve Parkes was shifted to full back and gave away one goal on a plate but Bromley's main failing was in allowing Wanderers all the time and space they wanted.

There were literally yards of space on the left side of the field for Mick Hollifield to exploit and in general Wycombe had twice as much time to exploit weaknesses. The best example came from Alexander's goal when he ran half the length of the field and drove the ball home without a single

challenge. It looked a certain candidate for the goal of the season but I doubt if the full back would have scored it against any other defence.

Wanderers took their time to get going in the early stages and seemed almost surprised by the amount of leeway given to them by the opposition. Horseman, for instance, sent several passes adrift and it was not until the 20th minute that Wycombe went close, Perrin heading against the crossbar from Hollifield's cross. Two minutes later, the Blues opened their account.

The man who made it was Hollifield, again using his pace to break free on the left. Mick Miles came in to challenge and the ball ran loose for Searle to fire home in-off the far upright. Bromley fought back gamely and caused 'keeper John Maskell the occasional anxious moment, especially when Kenny Edwards broke through in the 25th minute forcing Maskell to save with his legs.

The action was soon back in Bromley's half, however. With 27 minutes gone Perrin made it 2-0 when he ran onto Horseman's through ball and thumped a fine drive past the coverless Paske. Three minutes later Kennedy increased the lead again. Searle, who enjoyed one of his best games of the season, broke down the left and crossed over the defence. Kennedy picked up the ball and rammed in a shot which was blocked, but then drove home the rebound.

Only two minutes had elapsed when Searle notched his second goal and Wycombe's fourth. From a corner, Paske fisted the ball out as far as Alan Phillips who returned it to the right. Unmarked once again, Searle made no mistake with the shot.

The three goals in five minutes cruelly punished Bromley's deficiencies and effectively ended the game as a contest. From then on, it was just a matter of how many Wycombe would net. Chances came thick and fast with Horseman volleying over the top and Brian Messom clearing. Keith Mead's header off the line.

The half time whistle must have come as quite a relief to the home side but only five minutes into the second half, they found themselves five goals down. This was Alexander's solo effort when he took the ball down the flank, cut in and wended his way into a scoring position and then finished the move with a perfect shot past Paske. Three minutes later, it was 6-0, this time the result of a defensive blunder.

Paske threw the ball out to Parkes, who tried to play it square to centre half John Neary. The ball went behind him and straight to Horseman who slipped the 'keeper and planted the ball home. That equalled Bromley's heaviest defeat of the season, having lost 6-0 at Walthamstow.

One could only admire Bromley for the way they stuck to their impossible task without becoming over-physical. None tried harder than Paske who produced the save of the match from Perrin's rising drive in the 60th minute. But once again, he was left exposed by his defence in the 62nd minute.

This time Neary, who was made to look painfully slow by the visiting front runners, played a poor square ball to Edwards. He was challenged by a Wycombe player and the ball squirted loose, right into the path of Searle. Running on, Keith completed a deserved hat-trick by nonchalantly blasting the ball past Paske.

Graham Mackenzie replaced Horseman and Alan Hawkins came on for Parkes in the 68th minute and at last the Wycombe goalscoring machine took a break. Already 7-0 up it must have been difficult to bang more nails into the coffin and instead the Blues seemed content to pile up corner after corner. In all they won 14.

Nothing went right for Bromley in those closing minutes and they were denied even a consolation prize when Hawkins sent a header against the crossbar in injury time. Bromley must now go down to Division Two at the end of the season while at the other end of the scale, Wanderers will have had more satisfaction from the Enfield result than this so easy 7-0 victory.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; D. Alexander, K. Mead, A. Phillips, G. Hand; H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, M. Hollifield; A. Horseman (sub G. Mackenzie 68 mins), K. Searle, S. Perrin.

BROMLEY: D. Paske; M. Miles, A. Crutenden, J. Neary, S. Parkes (sub A. Hawkins 68 mins); B. Messom, K. Edwards, R. Adams; D. Butterfill, W. Hardy, R. Head.

Referee: A. Cox.
Half time: 0-4. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Searle 3 (22, 32, 62), Perrin (27), Kennedy (30), Alexander (50), Horseman (53).